

## Family Law Facilitator Mid-Year Training February 2006

### Epic Presentation Outline

#### **1) Introduction**

- ◆ In Feb. 2004, Collaborative Partners (SF DCSS, SF Court and SF FLF) applied for \$200,000 OCSE Special Improvement Grant under Priority number 5: Helping NCPs meet their Child Support and Family Responsibilities grant.
- ◆ Received OCSE Special Improvement Grant in June 2004 for the Enhanced Parental Involvement Collaboration Project (EPIC).

#### **2) Problem Addressed by EPIC**

- ◆ High Default Rate in California and nationwide
- ◆ Poor performance related to default judgments.
  - Many defaults often do not reflect actual earnings or circumstances.
  - Some defaults result in incorrect paternity findings.

#### **3) Goals of Project**

- ◆ Reduce Default rate and encourage NCP participation
- ◆ Establish Judgments that reflect actual circumstances
  - Paternity
  - Actual earnings and/or actual ability to earn

#### **4) Project Team**

- ◆ Two DCSS caseworkers, DCSS Management and Attorneys.
- ◆ FLF Attorney and Court clerks
- ◆ Child Support Commissioner and court clerks.

#### **4) Project Approach - Six Alternative Establishment Measures**

- ◆ 1/2 of the establishment caseload handled by EPIC team (For cases from 12/1/04 through 11/30/05)
- ◆ "Friendly Come and Get It Letter"
- ◆ Pre-Service Outreach
  - Telephone Outreach to NCP, family, organizations
  - Customized letters to incarcerated NCPs
  - Role of DCSS Dependency Liaison
  - Assistance with "Answers"
  - Guardian Ad Litem applications
- ◆ Service of Summons & Complaint with Friendly Flyer
- ◆ Post- Service Outreach
- ◆ Status Conference
- ◆ Post-Judgment Default Letter

#### **5) Conclusion**

- ◆ Tentative Results after a year of casework are very promising. Project has been very successful in reducing default rate.
- ◆ Working on collection data.
- ◆ Project is on going so we can not report specific data or share project materials at this time. Final report will be submitted to OCSE in June of 2006.